

Telephone connections on out of turn Basis

1304. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of forgery of signatures of the former Minister of Communications in the matter of release of telephone connections on out of turn basis in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS: (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Some cases of fake sanction orders purported to have been issued by Telecom Directorate for provision of telephones on Out of Turn basis were reported by Telecom Field Units. An investigation into the matter by the Vigilance Branch was ordered in May, 1991. The investigation is in progress and the report is awaited.

Employment in Lime Stone Pulverizing Unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1305. SHRI V. SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees, in the Lime Stone Pulverizing Unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant at Jaggaiahpetta, category-wise;

(b) the number of local people employed there and the details of relaxation/preference, if any, given to them for employment in the said unit;

(c) whether the dependents whose land were acquired, have been provided employment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As on 20-7-91, there were 139 employees comprising 11 executives and 128 non-executives working at Jaggayyapeta lime stone mines of Visakhapatnam Steel Project.

(b) While recruitment to executives is done on all India basis, that for non-executives is through the Employment Exchanges. In case suitable candidates are not available with the Employment Exchanges, recruitment is made through advertisements. Out of the 128 non-executive employees working at Jaggayyapeta, 70 were recruited through the local Employment Exchange at Jaggayyapeta, 48 through advertisements and 10 transferred from VSP.

(c) and (d) Compensation is paid to those whose land is acquired according to the rules of the State Government. In the matter of employment, preference is given to displaced persons, whose land and dwellings are acquired, subject to the suitability of such persons. In Jaggayyapeta lime stone mines there is no displaced person who can be given preference for employment.

Sri Ramsagar Project Stage II

1306. SHRI V. SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Ramsagar Project Stage II is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sri Ramsagar Project Stage-II estimated to cost about Rs. 450 crores was received at the Centre in September, 1986. After examination it was found

that there would be no water available for this project after catering to the needs of on-going Stage-I of the project. The Stage-II proposal was, therefore, returned to the State Government in May, 1989.

Point to Point Contact Dialling Facility in Andhra Pradesh

1307. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide point to point contact dialling facility in various Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof exchange-wise and the time by which this facility is likely to be available to the subscribers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Damanjodi Alumina Plant

1308. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the proposal for expansion of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the details of the additional staff required on expansion of the said Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the

National Aluminium Company (NALCO) the additional manpower requirement for expansion of Aluminium plant at Damanjodi is about 650.

[Translation]

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committee in Bihar

1309. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in constituting the Telephone Advisory Committee in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which the said Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Bihar Telecom Advisory Committee and Patna Telephones Advisory Committees were constituted on 28-29/3/1991 and are under review.

[English]

Production of Betel Leaves

1310. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the betel leaves produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide minimum support price to the betel leaf growers and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken so far by the Government for the welfare of betel leaf growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated average value of annual production of betel leaves during the last 3 years is Rs. 700/- crores.